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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY N.V. Herp DATE NOV 8 1985
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NLE MR Case No. 84-265
Document No. 1

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON
August 12, 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Request for Standby Orders to use Military Transportation for Possible Evacuation of American Citizens in Laos.

An estimated 600 American citizens, primarily United States Government officials and dependents, are presently in Laos, mostly in Vientiane. Additionally, there are some 500 Filipino contract employees for whom the United States Government has assumed responsibility. If the situation in Laos deteriorates substantially, a partial or almost complete evacuation may be essential.

Because of current weather conditions and lack of large airfields two-engine aircraft are most suitable for evacuation purposes. Regularly scheduled commercial aircraft are not readily available in the area.

Military two-engine aircraft in Laos, Thailand and Vietnam number 6. By using these aircraft for shuttling the 1100 persons from Laos to the other two countries, the bulk of these persons in an extreme emergency could be withdrawn from Laos within several days if the local authorities allow the airplanes to land and depart.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you authorize the use of military personnel and facilities to remove the persons concerned from Laos if the situation there should warrant their evacuation.

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State notified 13 August 1960 JSDE

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